



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5684

LCO No. 3713

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING VETERINARY EMPLOYEES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 20-197 of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) No person shall practice veterinary medicine, surgery or
4 dentistry until [he] such person has obtained a license as provided in
5 section 20-199. A person shall be construed to practice veterinary
6 medicine, surgery or dentistry, within the meaning of this chapter,
7 [who] if such person (1) holds himself or herself out as being able to
8 diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any
9 animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, or
10 [who] (2) either offers or undertakes, by any means or methods, to
11 diagnose, administer biologics for, treat, operate or prescribe for any
12 animal or bird disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition.
13 The euthanizing of animals in accordance with applicable state and
14 federal drug laws by the Connecticut Humane Society, the assistance
15 by an employee of a licensed veterinarian and the floating of teeth in
16 horses by persons experienced in that practice shall not be deemed to
17 be the practice of veterinary medicine.

18 (b) For the purposes of this section, (1) "floating of teeth" means
19 using hand-held rasps to reduce or eliminate sharp or uneven edges on
20 a horse's upper and lower molars to avoid injury to the tongue and
21 cheeks and to improve chewing food, but does not include treating
22 decay, tumors or extracting teeth, (2) "assistance by an employee of a
23 licensed veterinarian" means a veterinary employee who (A) has been
24 (i) evaluated by a veterinarian licensed in this state, and (ii) certified as
25 competent by such veterinarian to the Department of Public Health,
26 (B) performs such employee's duties within the context of a valid
27 veterinarian-client-patient relationship, and (C) performs animal
28 health care other than (i) diagnosis or prognosis, (ii) prescription of
29 treatments, drugs, medications or appliances, or (iii) surgery in a
30 veterinary facility or at the premises where the animal is kept, and (3)
31 "veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means (A) the veterinarian
32 has assumed the responsibility for making medical judgments
33 regarding the health of the animal and the need for medical treatment
34 and the client, owner or other caretaker of the animal has agreed to
35 follow the instructions of the veterinarian, (B) there is sufficient
36 knowledge of the animal by the veterinarian to initiate, at a minimum,
37 a general or preliminary diagnosis of the medical condition of the
38 animal by virtue of the veterinarian having recently seen or being
39 personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the animal through
40 an examination or through timely visits to the premises where the
41 animal is kept, or both, and (C) the veterinarian is readily available or
42 has arranged for emergency veterinary coverage for follow-up services
43 in case of adverse reactions or failure of the therapy regimen.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide that the assistance by an employee of a licensed veterinarian within the context of a valid veterinarian-client-patient relationship shall not be deemed to be the practice of veterinary medicine and to define "assistance by an employee of a licensed veterinarian".

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MORDASKY, 52nd Dist.